

Fact Sheet
March 2004

Proposed River Heights Intermediate School



SUPPLEMENTAL SITE INVESTIGATION FOR METHANE

*DTSC is one of six
Boards and
Departments within
the California
Environmental
Protection Agency.
The Department's
mission is to restore,
protect and enhance
the environment,
to ensure public health,
environmental
quality and
economic vitality,
by regulating
hazardous waste,
conducting and
overseeing
cleanups, and
developing
and promoting
pollution prevention.*

State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency



INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide a brief explanation of the environmental investigations, results of the investigations and future activities that will be conducted by the Corona-Norco Unified School District (District) under the oversight of the California State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) for the proposed River Heights Intermediate School (site).

This site will occupy 20-acres of an 80-acre property located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Cleveland Avenue and Orange Street in Corona, CA. The remaining 60-acres of the property will be used by the District for the proposed Eleanor Roosevelt High School. A separate Fact Sheet will be forthcoming for the 60-acre Eleanor Roosevelt High School project.

The site will consist of a small cluster of buildings on the northeast quarter of the 80-acre property. Construction of the new intermediate school has been proposed in response to community needs and is specifically intended to relieve overcrowding at other District operated schools within the local area.

**Documents related to the site are available for public review at
locations listed at the end of this fact sheet**

SITE HISTORY

A review of historical records indicated that the property has been used for dairy operations since 1948. Development of the site included additional storage and hay barns and water retention ponds. The ponds were built in response to a Regional Water Quality Control Board – Santa Ana Region mandate that dairies in the Chino Basin area contain all wash water and runoff on site.

ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

In February 2002, the District initiated a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) of the site. The ESA was conducted to evaluate the history of the site, and whether historical operations at the site resulted in the release of hazardous substances into the environment.

A Phase II Investigation was conducted in July 2002 to evaluate potentially contaminated areas identified in the ESA. These two investigations were combined into a PEA Equivalent Report submitted to DTSC in November 2002.

During the Phase II investigation, six surface soil samples were collected in areas of stained soil. Soil vapor samples were collected from six locations. The Phase I sampling results indicated:

- Elevated concentrations of methane were present at two locations.
- Low concentrations of petroleum hydrocarbons were present in an equipment storage area.

Based on the results, a Supplemental Site Investigation (SSI) was conducted in 2003. Additional soil and soil vapor samples were collected to evaluate the nature and extent of contamination and assess whether contaminants posed a health risk to future students and staff.

The SSI concluded that the only chemical of potential concern was methane gas in soil vapor. The source of the methane is believed to be cow manure that has been incorporated or leached into the soil.

Exposure to methane gas does not pose a direct health risk. However, methane gas present in soil vapor could accumulate under buildings or in crawl spaces and potentially reach explosive concentrations.

DESCRIPTION OF THE UPCOMING INVESTIGATION

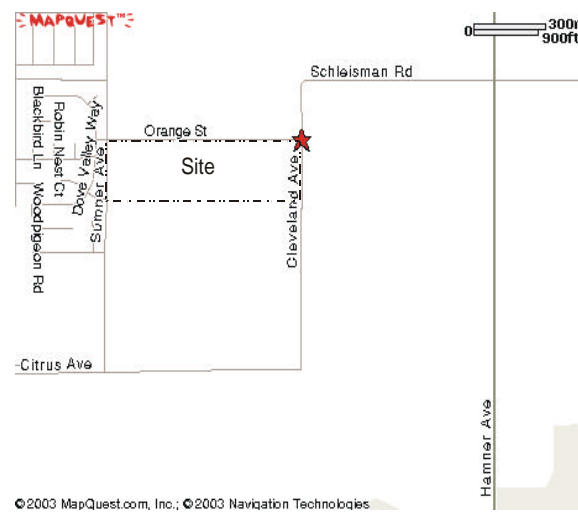
An SSI for methane will be conducted at the site after mass grading activities occur. The methane investigation will include the installation of eighteen subsurface gas probes across the site. The probes will allow for gas measurements at 5, 10 and 15 feet below the ground. The probes will be monitored weekly for a period of one month

for subsurface gas pressure, and concentrations of methane, oxygen, and carbon dioxide.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

If methane concentrations exceed the DTSC guidelines, a methane mitigation system will be installed in all affected buildings. A Removal Action Work Plan (RAW) for the mitigation measures would be prepared and made available for public review during a 30-day public comment period.

PROJECT LOCATION MAP



WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

DTSC Contact

If you would like more information about the environmental investigations at the Site, please call:

Juan Osornio, DTSC Project Manager at (714) 484-5498

Yvette LaDuke, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (818) 551-2909.

Media Contact: Jeanne Garcia, DTSC Public Information Officer at (818) 551-2176

Corona-Norco Unified School District Contact

If you have questions regarding the school construction or other school-related issues, contact:

Don Lussier, Supervisor of Facilities (909) 736-5048

Information Repositories

Project documents are available for public review at the following locations:

Corona-Norco Unified School District

Facilities Division

2820 Clark Avenue

Norco, CA

Phone: (909) 736-5045

Hours:

Monday–Friday 8:00am–4:30pm

Department of Toxic Substances Control, Regional Records Office

1011 North Grandview Avenue

Glendale, CA 91201

Contact: Jone Barrio

Phone: (818) 551-2886

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am–5:00pm

Corona Public Library

650 S. Main Street

Corona, CA 92882

909-736-2387

Hours:

Monday–Thursday 10:00am-9:00pm

Friday & Saturday 10:00am-5:00pm

Sunday 1:00pm-5:00pm

Norco Library

3954 Old Hamner Road

Norco, CA 92860

Phone: (909) 735-5329

Hours:

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 10:00am-6:00pm

Tuesday 10:00am-8:00pm

Saturday 10:00am-4:00pm

Phoenix High School

13031 Orange Street

Corona, CA 92880

909-736-3339

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can obtain additional information about the Site by using the California State Relay Service at (1-888-877-5378) or by calling Yvette LaDuke, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (818) 551-2909.

Yvette LaDuke, Public Participation Specialist
California Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Toxic Substances Control
1011 N. Grandview Avenue
Glendale, CA 91201

Important Information on River Heights Intermediate School